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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Puerto Rican Veterans Memorial desecrated on the eve of Memorial Day

Organizers go ahead with ceremony to mark the occasion, show they won't be intimidated

By Seth Daniel

Memorial Day weekend had started with a smile for Veterans Commissioner Roberto Santiago, but quickly on Sunday it turned to a very frustrating time as he got word that the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument in the South End had been desecrated.

As he arrived with Monument President Tony Molina, his heart sunk.

"I was angered," he said at the Monument on Memorial

Day. "Who would do this? It wasn't just because of the timing of it with Memorial Day. That anger though quickly turned into a heartwarming experience with the City response. They put it back. If you look at it now, it doesn't look like it happened. This act of vandalism isn't going to stop us from honoring our soldiers."

Molina said he was shocked by it, and it had put a further damper on his Memorial

(VETERANS MONUMENT, Pg. 6)



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

Several JROTC officers from South Boston High bring in the ceremonial wreath for the Memorial Day exercises at the Puerto Rican Veterans Memorial in the South End on Monday afternoon – one day after the monument was desecrated and damaged by some unknown vandal(s). Organizers went ahead with a safe ceremony on Monday, and Police Commissioner Willie Gross said an investigation is underway and they are looking for help from the community with any tips. The act was universally condemned.

BACK BAY SPRINGING TO LIFE



PHONEY TULIPS: The brilliantly pink tulips in Copley Square adjacent to the Boston Public Library were in full bloom last week, but some were too busy on their phones to really notice – as is a sign of the times that some things haven't changed. The pink tulips are quite a site to see for those venturing out into the Back Bay.

Muddy Water Initiative hopes to deploy WaterGoat

By Lauren Bennett

The Muddy Water Initiative's hope to bring a trash collecting net, better known as the WaterGoat, to the Muddy River this summer is still on track.

Caroline Reeves of the Muddy Water Initiative said that the organization is waiting for its last per-

mit before deploying the device in mid-July or August.

"Even though things have been pretty crazy, we are hoping we can make that happen," she said.

The Muddy River is notoriously laden with trash and tennis balls, golf balls, shoes, and even strollers. Reeves said that they have been told that the Muddy

River is "too dirty to clean," and that volunteers should not enter the water. Last year, the Muddy Water Initiative received \$12,000 from the state budget to purchase the net, which will enable volunteers to remove trash from the river without having to enter the

(WATERGOAT, Pg. 4)

Walsh gives coronavirus updates; announces Reopen Boston Fund

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on Tuesday, where he updated Bostonians on how the city is moving forward with the COVID-19 crisis.

As of May 26, Boston had 12,521 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 622 people had died.

Governor Charlie Baker announced that the Boston Hope medical center set up at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston would no longer be accepting new patients as of Tuesday. Walsh

(WALSH UPDATE, Pg. 9)

Copley Square Farmer's Market the first to re-open

By Seth Daniel

In a time of uncertainty and virtuality, organizers of the Copley Square Farmer's Market hope that real fresh food will be a refreshing reason to venture out and buy food in a safe, open alternative to a supermarket.

The Copley Square Farmer's Market opened for the first time this season on Friday, May 22, and will continue to operate every Tuesday and Friday through the fall. It was the first Farmer's Market to open in the City, and only the second or third in Greater Boston, and it was by and large an experiment to see how

(FARMERS MARKET, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

AMERICANS WILL SURVIVE WITHOUT BACON DOUBLE-CHEESEBURGERS

The decision of the federal government to invoke the Defense Production Act to order meat-processing plants to reopen raises a number of issues about the use of the act for this purpose.

First and foremost, the order ignores the reality that meat-processing plants continue to be hot-spots for the spread of the coronavirus, placing the safety and lives of workers, their families, and their communities at high risk for contracting and spreading the disease. Despite the best efforts of meat processors over the past two months to improve worker safety, the coronavirus continues to explode among workers in this industry. The invocation of the Defense Production Act does nothing to address this issue.

Second, we certainly sympathize with the livestock farmers who have been forced to euthanize their animals, placing these farmers on the edge of bankruptcy. But their economic losses are easily-calculable and should be recompensed by the federal government.

By contrast, what has been more disturbing in our view has been the destruction of fruits and vegetables by farmers who normally supply the restaurant business. Why hasn't the federal government come up with a plan to purchase those foods and distribute them to the millions of needy Americans who are lining up, literally for miles, for distributions from food banks?

Third however, there is an even more basic question: Why has meat production been deemed an essential industry?

We raise this question for a simple reason: The American diet, which relies more heavily on meat than any other nation in the world, has been a major contributor to the death toll in our country for persons under the age of 60 who have contracted the coronavirus.

According to researchers, a person's body mass index -- whether someone is overweight -- is a crucial factor in the ability of an individual to fight the disease. In addition, individuals who consume a lot of animal protein are more likely to suffer from the pre-existing conditions of heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and kidney failure that place them at high risk for a fatal outcome if they should contract the coronavirus.

Americans --- who annually consume an astonishing average of 222 pounds of meat per person -- can obtain their protein in many other ways, whether from fish and shellfish or the new food products (such as the Impossible Burger and Beyond Meat) that actually are good for our health.

Finally, we would add that less meat production benefits our environment, thereby reducing air pollution, which is another plus for our nation's overall health. We're sure many of our readers will be surprised to learn that the production of meat and dairy, particularly from cows, contributes enormously to climate change, with livestock accounting for almost 15 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions each year -- roughly the same amount as all of the cars, trucks, airplanes, and ships in the world combined.

In conclusion, the federal government needs to take immediate action to ensure that farmers' fruit and vegetable products do not go to waste at a time when many Americans are in financial distress and in need of food. On the other hand, meat-processing plants should be allowed to reopen only when those facilities are safe for workers.

In the meantime, if the coronavirus changes the typical American's eating habits -- from less bacon, hot dogs, etc., to more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains -- that's a good thing, both for the present and future health of our nation.

THE BOSTON SUN

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GUEST OP-ED

Filling out the U.S. Census is an effective and safe way to support your community right now

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Every 10 years, the Federal government conducts a Census, counting every person living in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and five U.S. territories. This is more than just a headcount; the Census determines everything from representation in Congress, to Federal funds for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure, and healthcare programs.

As Boston continues to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and work towards an equitable recovery, Federal funding will play a key role in providing relief for our small business owners, veterans, renters, our healthcare sector, and more. Much of the recovery aid that Washington will allocate is based on our population's size determined by the Census. Filling out the 2020 Census is a great way to support healthcare workers, first responders, and other people on the front lines from the safety of your home. It will also help Boston respond to future emergencies by increasing data accuracy and Federal dollars for community health centers and hospitals. Data from the 2010 Census shows

that for every Massachusetts resident who doesn't fill out the Census, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts misses out on more than \$2,300 in Federal funding. That's a significant loss for our communities, including our students, our older adults, our residents experiencing homelessness, and other vulnerable groups. In 2015, Massachusetts received more than \$16 billion for crucial programs and services such as Medicaid and Medicare, SNAP and free school lunch programs, Section 8 Vouchers, public education, and child-care programs for low-income families like Head Start. We need everyone in the city to participate in this year's Census so we can continue to support and improve these programs.

Many of Boston's communities are at risk of an undercount. Almost 60 percent of the city's population lives in census tracts that have historically been undercounted, and this year, we want to change that. The Census is a means to increase community power. Boston recognizes how vital each resident is to our social fabric, the 2020 Census makes sure the Federal government does too.

I want to assure everyone in Boston that responses to the 2020

Census are safe, secure, and protected by Federal law. Answers can only be used to produce statistics, and the Census Bureau cannot share your personal information with anyone-- not to law enforcement, and not to your landlord. You will not be asked about your immigration status, and answers will not affect any public benefits you receive.

The Census is very easy to complete. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire online at my2020census.gov. You can also fill it out over the phone in 13 different languages. The phone number is listed on the website. Everyone counts equally in our democracy, and everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and invested in-- regardless of your age, background, housing status, how much money you make, where you were born, or any other characteristic. The 2020 Census is an example of direct democracy in action, and I urge all Bostonians to take part. For more information on the 2020 Census and the City's outreach efforts to ensure a fair and complete count, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/2020-census>.

Martin Walsh is Mayor of the City of Boston.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

start vaping and using tobacco.

The law, which goes into effect on June 1, 2020, means that:

- Menthol cigarettes and all other flavored tobacco products like flavored cigars, flavored chewing tobacco, and flavored e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping products will no longer be widely available in Massachusetts.

- E-cigarettes and nicotine vaping products will increase in price.

I'm excited to see that No Menthol. Know Why. is an extension of that work; they're working with community-based organizations, youth advocates, public health and health care partners, local health departments, churches, regional Tobacco-Free Community Partnership programs, and more to reach out to and support the communities most impacted by the new law. They want to build awareness about the law and provide information about the resources available to help people quit smoking.

You can help spread the word in your community. Visit NoMentholKnowWhy.org to learn more, to share your menthol story and to find tools and resource to share.

For information about how the law will be enforced visit mass.gov/NewTobaccoLaw.

Help for those who want to quit vaping, smoking or using other tobacco products is available for FREE at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) and KeepTryingMA.org.

Contact Edgar Duran Elmudesi at the Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, eduran@hria.org or 617-451-0049 x549 to learn more about the law, how you can support people in quitting and to find out how you can partner with us.

**Edgar Duran Elmudesi
Metro Boston Tobacco-Free
Community Partnership
Health Resources in Action**

FARMERS MARKET (from pg. 1)

operating an open-air market could work with restrictions for COVID-19.

In a spring of confinement, organizers believe the Farmer's Market could just be the safe thing to breath some fresh air into the lives of quarantinees in the downtown.

"It's incredibly important for us to be here today," said Edith Murnane, executive director of Mass Farmer's Markets - which rents the space from the City and operates the market. "For these farms to survive and be sustainable, they need to participate in direct to the consumer spaces like this. There was a lot of thought put into it and we organized it so people will feel comfortable and safe...Copley Farmer's Market looks physically different this year because of the DPH guidelines of have one entrance. It's not as amorphous as it was in the past.

"We're able to offer more space, and outdoors, for our aisles than in the grocery store," she added. "Here, our aisles we created are about 10 to 12 feet and could be 18 feet wide. It's a much more open environment. We do have a limited number of people though we can let in the space. In this pandemic, we believe Farmer's Markets are going to be your best and safest way to procure fresh products."

And with it being in walking distance of the Back Bay, South End, Bay Village and other close-by neighborhoods, the Copley Square Market is getting a good deal of momentum. On Friday, the scene was less open, being roped off carefully in the Square and having reconfigured booths with only two entries/exits. Anyone entering had to have their hands sprayed with disinfectant and were required to wear a mask.

Atlas Farms has been with the Market in Copley since 2005,

and Richie Allium has been the stand director there for the past three summers. He said there was a great deal of uncertainty last winter when the pandemic set in. They had been in a winter market that was abruptly cancelled and they were beginning to plant the vegetables and seed plants in their greenhouse. There was uncertainty, but on Friday Allium said he was really happy to be there in the City.

"This is critical for us to survive as a farm," he said. "We have 100 plus acres planted and half goes to wholesale and half to retail at the market here. We have operated here at least for 15 years and in that time we've built up relationships with our customers who come back. I think we're doing a good thing here and I think we're doing it in a safe manner."

The response on Friday was pretty good, he said. Because the weather has been horrible this spring, there wasn't much ready for selling in the way of vegetables, but there were cucumbers and plants for the garden and other treats.

"I think a lot of people really liked us opening today," he said, noting that they had planned to open on Tuesday but could not. "I'm hopeful. I'm anxious. I was wondering if anyone would show up. But we sold out of asparagus and 70 percent of the plants we brought were sold."

At the stand, like the others there, workers wore face coverings and gloves. Hand sanitizer was readily available and customers were blocked from coming too close. Instead of a store type situation, it was set up as a deli counter operation, which worked well.

And a cool innovation was a foot pump hand washing station that worked on people power.

"We're at the point now as a society that if we make the right

decisions on a start and return, we're going to get out of this," he said.

Market Manager Jessi Rubin was patrolling the booths all day Friday, and keeping watch over the exit - as patrons had to enter on Dartmouth Street and exit on St. James.

"I feel really good about the opening," she said. "I felt like everyone cooperated well. Vendors showed up super-prepared for social distance and shoppers cooperated too. I think it will be a great season and it's a really safe alternative to going to the grocery store."

As she monitored the exit, a passer-by in a mask and rubber gloves looked over at the activity, wondering if it was even legal.

"Are you open?" she asked. "Yes we are," she said. "Is that permitted?" asked the



Mass Farmer's Markets Director Edith Murnane was happy to welcome shoppers to the reconfigured and opened Copley Square Farmer's Market last Friday, May 22. It was the first Farmer's Market to open in Boston.

woman.

"Yes it is," she said.

A smile came over the woman's face under the mask as she nodded in excitement.

Finally, a real thing.

The Copley Square Farmer's Market is open every Tuesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Senior citizens are welcome for special hours during the first 30 minutes.

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Richie Allium of Atlas Farms shows some of the garden plants that were for sale at their stand last Friday. The farm has sold direct to consumers for 15 years in Copley, and it is critical for them to be able to return this summer despite COVID-19.

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BAA Foundation launches “103 Reasons to Give” campaign to support graduating seniors

By Lauren Bennett

High school seniors across the country are dealing with missed proms, senior events, and graduation, but Boston Arts Academy (BAA) is doing something special for the class of 2020 to make the end of their socially distanced senior year a little brighter.

As the only public arts high school in Massachusetts, BAA typically gives its graduating seniors a chance to perform in senior recitals and show off their talents at graduation, which just won't be the same this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

That's why the Boston Arts Academy Foundation launched a fundraising campaign to support the Class of 2020, called “103 Reasons to Give,” in honor of BAA's 103 graduating seniors.

The campaign goal is to raise \$200,000 by June 12, and launched May 2 with a virtual kick-off event. Additionally, BAA Foundation's annual celebration, BAA Honors, has been postponed, delaying a goal of raising \$1.5 million.

“I know that so many seniors are losing so many rites of passage,” Danella Clark, president of the BAA Foundation, said. She said that BAA has some of the most “creative” and “collaborative” students, and because of the pandemic, people are unable to come and see all of their hard work come to fruition.

“BAA has some of the most vulnerable students,” Clark said. “So many of these kids come from low income backgrounds.” She added that 96 percent of the Class of 2020 has been accepted to college, and this campaign can help many of them pay for deposits.

So far, nearly \$170,000 has been raised for the campaign.

“To think that these kids were just going to leave and not be celebrated, for me and our headmaster, Anne Clark, it was critically important that they know how proud we are of them and how much we love them and that we give to them through this campaign,” Danella Clark said.

The funds from the campaign will ensure that each student receives a yearbook, a care pack-

age valued at \$500, and every student will be able to participate in a virtual graduation on June 8.

The remainder of the money will be given out as scholarships based on need.

“Our hope also is, in the fall, to have some sort of prom,” Clark said, which is currently scheduled for the Friday after Thanksgiving.

At the virtual graduation, Mayor Walsh and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley are slated to speak, as well as a keynote address from Academy Award winning costume designer Ruth Carter. Students will also still be able to do live performances as they would at an in-person ceremony.

Though students are upset, many are making the best of the situation and using technology to their advantage while socially distancing.

Nalany Guerrier, a graduating BAA senior and student body president, said that right now, she's “feeling okay” about the whole situation. She said that while she and her classmates are upset that they are not “able to live out the senior experiences” that are typi-

cal for graduating seniors, “there's not much that can be done during a pandemic.”

Guerrier, who studied film at BAA, has created a media project that she was excited to share, but now may have to do so online, which she said is “totally fine.”

She said she and her friends have been working on their projects from home, and have had more time throughout the day to get their schoolwork done.

Guerrier expressed her gratitude for the campaign, calling it “really cool.” She added, “I don't know how many high schools will have fundraisers just for the senior class. It really encourages seniors.”

She said she feels supported by the administration at BAA, and appreciates the fact that the school has found ways to support the Class of 2020. She said she also feels as though “they know how much this year means to us.”

She added, “my school did the best they could deciding where the money would go and they have our best interests in mind.”

Guerrier also said the time at home has allowed BAA students

to “be able to create new things as artists,” such as creating new songs and sharing them on social media for others to enjoy.

She said that personally, she has taken raw audio and made short stories out of it, so she can practice doing what she loves even while stuck inside.

She will be attending Emerson College in the fall, where she will be studying Media Arts Production. “I cannot wait to go,” she said, adding that she's excited for the “ability for us to be hands-on at Emerson,” as that's something she loved about BAA.

But for right now, BAA seniors are focused on finishing up their work in the final stretch of the online school year.

“We are going to get through it,” Guerrier said. “We're going to see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

To make a donation to “103 Reasons to Give,” visit <https://e.givesmart.com/events/hg2/>, or donate by texting 103REASONS to 76278.

“Every penny will help us get to our goal,” Clark said.

Infection rates see slight uptick in the downtown areas, cases steady

By Seth Daniel

With testing ramping up in the South End, Fenway and Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill areas, COVID-19 cases are growing faster and infection rates have seen a slight uptick over the past week – particularly in the Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill areas.

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) released its neighborhood data on Friday, with data current as of 1:18 p.m. on May 21.

In the latest data, there were

several new cases reported in the Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill area – reporting 87 new cases in the week and an infection rate that went from 63.2 per 10,000 to 77.9 per 10,000. The same was true of the Fenway, but there were only 10 new cases reported since last week, but an infection rate that went up to 47.9 per 10,000. That was a modest increase compared to Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill where there is a noticeable uptick.

The South End's numbers, as has been the case for months in the data, is tied to the testing of

the homeless population in the shelters, hospitals and Pine Street Inn – all in the South End. This week, the South End was reported to have 80 new cases and an infection rate of 225.7 per 10,000.

These statistics are markedly different for the areas than in the previous week when nothing notable really changed.

When it came to testing, more residents were being tested in every neighborhood. The South End saw 3,116 people tested, up by almost 300 from last week. The Downtown area rose in testing to 2,816

people from 2,442 last week – a difference of 374 people.

The Fenway also saw an increase from 1,448 people last week to 1,719 people in the current data. All of that is a noticeable difference for neighborhoods that have not shown large concentrations of infection.

The neighborhood with the most people tested was South Dorchester, with 6,582 people tested, while East Boston had 4,137 people tested.

The numbers of positive tests are decreasing, an important indi-

cator as testing increases. In the South End, the positive percentage was 25.5 percent, with 13.6 percent in the Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill areas – which was the lowest percentage in the city. Fenway had a positive percentage rate of 15.6 percent.

Positive test percentages have lowered all over the city, with East Boston still having the highest percentage at 34.5 percent positive out of 4,137 tests.

The most cases are still in South

(INFECTION RATES, Pg. 5)

WATERGOAT (from pg. 1)

water themselves.

“It's a brilliantly simple device,” Reeves said of the WaterGoat. “It is a shallow net strung across the Muddy River at Ipswich St.” The deployment of the WaterGoat in the Muddy River is a pilot, and a “demonstration for all different places that need trash cleanup across Boston,” Reeves said.

The WaterGoat has a rope that can be untied from one end and pulls the net across the width of the river, trapping the trash in the curve of the net, Reeves said. “The net acts like a scooper and takes the surface

trash and brings it to the shore.”

Once the trash is pulled out of the water, “it becomes a regular park cleanup,” Reeves said. Volunteers don safety equipment like goggles and gloves, and are given trash pickers so they can scoop the trash into heavy duty plastic bags.

Reeves said the location on Ipswich St. is “ideal,” because it is a less-traveled street and the trash pickup can happen right from the sidewalk. The Muddy Water Initiative does have funds for private trash hauling, but they are also applying for a Red Sox grant in hopes for more monies for private

trash pickup, she said.

“Even though it's the time of COVID, our waterways being free and clear of trash [is important] to reduce the stress we're already feeling,” Reeves said. “We go outside to enjoy nature and to be released from this oppressive pandemic. We don't want to see baby carriages and baseballs and boots and paper cups littering the surface of our beautiful Muddy.”

Aside from waiting for the last permit, another challenge of deploying the WaterGoat this summer is ensuring the safety of people flying

up from Big Water Rescue in Florida to ensure that the device is installed properly. Reeves said that “that piece is still a little murky,” but “we're hoping to get it in by August and have August and September.”

The other issue is the safety of volunteers who would operate the WaterGoat, which would be left in the water until September, stored, and then re-installed next year when it gets warm again.

“It's meant to engage volunteers,” Reeves said. “It's not about professional garbage cleaning,” but rather about “residents and local

people making a visible difference in their urban waterway. If we can't have our volunteers safely, we don't want to deploy it.” She said that the teams of volunteers would be small enough that they could properly socially distance while operating the net, since it is so easy to use.

Reeves said that the Muddy Water Initiative and its volunteers are a “can-do group,” and feel that they can get the WaterGoat deployed this summer, “even with all these curveballs. We're still ready to get the WaterGoat gobbling up that trash.”

Contract awarded for Phase 2 of Muddy River Flood Risk Management project in Boston and Brookline; work starts in July

Phase 2 of the Muddy River Flood Risk Management construction project in Boston and Brookline will be completed under the terms of a \$36.5 million contract issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District while the non-Federal sponsors for the project are the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Boston and the Town of Brookline, according to press release issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Work will be accomplished by Charter Contracting Company, LLC of Boston, and construction is scheduled to start on or about July 2020 and be completed in approximately 36 months. The contract was awarded on Feb. 26.

The overall project objective is to increase flood control through improvements to restrictive drainage culverts and by dredging accumulated sediment and removing invasive vegetation that is constricting flow. Positive ancillary benefits include improved water quality and enhanced aquatic/riparian habitat within Muddy River; bank stabilization; landscape restoration in keeping with the Frederick Law Olmsted's famed "Emerald Necklace" park-

lands; and enhancing the overall recreational use of parklands.

Phase 1, completed in 2016, consisted of the major structural features of the flood damage reduction improvements: the installation of the two culverts (one under the Riverway and the other under Brookline Avenue); and daylighting of two sections (about 700 linear feet) of the Muddy River at the Former Sears Parking and at Upper Fens Pond. It also included bank restoration and planting emergent wetland plants and restoring riparian vegetation in upland areas by planting trees and shrubs.

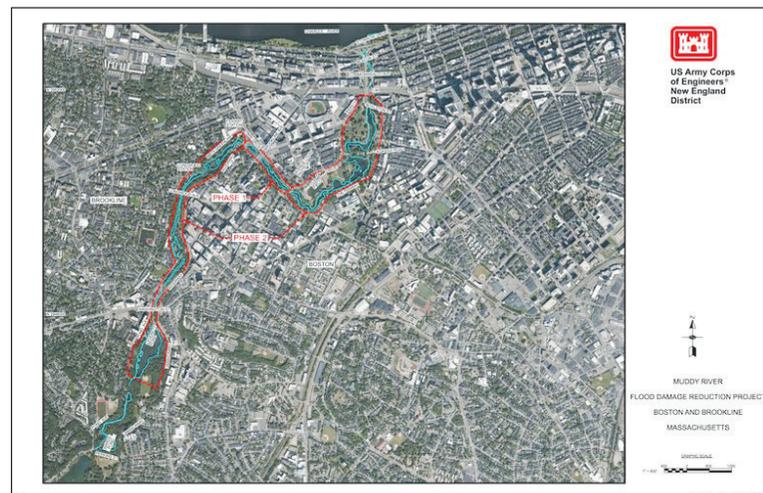
Phase 2 is the final phase of work to complete the project, which addresses both upstream and downstream of Phase 1 work, and will consist of removal of river sediments for flow conveyance.

"The location of the work to be performed will be in and along the Muddy River from Leverett Pond to Boylston Street in Boston and Brookline," Project Manager Jennifer Flanagan, of the Corps' New England District, Programs and Project Management Division in Concord, Mass., stated in the press release. "The project scope of work consists of dredging 1 to

8 feet of sediment from the bottom of the river to construct the Flood Risk Management channel, stabilizing the material for transport, and trucking the material for disposal."

Work will include excavating the river in the Back Bay Fens area of the Muddy River and excavating five stretches of the Riverway section of the Muddy River. It will include excavating the sandbar and island at Leverett Pond. Excavations may be performed mechanically in wet conditions or by the establishment of water diversion structures with excavation performed in dry conditions. Included as part of this work is additional flood protection at the Boston Fire Department Fire Control Center in the Back Bay Fens.

Work will include removal of *phragmites* in the Back Bay Fens and Riverway areas to achieve flood damage reduction; and restoring wetland vegetation in excavated areas by planting appropriate emergent wetland plants. It will include restoring riparian vegetation in upland areas where *phragmites* are removed by planting trees and shrubs. It will include restoring vegetation and other landscape features disturbed at staging areas and within the



Graphic of the Muddy River Flood Damage Reduction Project.

COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

limit of work; and installation of boulders and habitat logs for fish, turtles and amphibians

Additional work will include control of river flow; control of ground and surface waters; pedestrian and vehicular traffic control; pedestrian management; protection of historic structures and landscape features to remain; invasive species control and selective clearing of vegetation; and maintenance of all restored areas with the limit of work. Due to the urban setting of the project location, extensive management of pedestrian and vehicular traffic at con-

struction access points and at each work area is required to minimize impacts to roadways and parkland system to ensure public safety.

Preliminary preconstruction work, such as photographic and condition surveys and sediment sampling, will begin in mid-May in compliance with permit requirements and in support of the construction start in July 2020. The project will be managed by the Corps and supervised by a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

INFECTION RATES (from pg. 4)

Dorchester with 1,890 positive cases, but the highest infection rate at 298 per 10,000 in Hyde Park.

•One new piece of information this week – as of May 26 – was the City began keeping track of deaths in long-term care facilities, or nursing homes.

There had been 622 deaths in Boston from COVID-19 complications and 296 had been in long-term care facilities – at around 47.5 percent of all deaths.

That was new information and shone a light upon where the vast amount of deaths and sickness are occurring – which is in long-term care facilities and in communities/neighborhoods with several of those facilities, such as Hyde Park.

•The divide between men and women remained in the current numbers, with women being more prone to be infected than men – which is an outlier amongst the world trends.

This week, 51 percent of all cases were in women, while 47.5 percent were in men. That was the same as the previous week, but up since the pandemic began.

•The vast majority of cases remains in the older population, with one in three COVID-19 positive persons age 60 or above.

The largest age group with positive cases was age 50-59 with 17.5 percent of all cases. The highest infection rate, as has been the case for some time, is in the 80-plus population, which is at 599 per 10,000. That substantially higher than the next closest age group, 70-79, which is at 328 per 10,000.

This trend has been the case for more than a month.

•Racial data continues to show Black/African Americans leading in the numbers of cases for the data available (18.4 percent of the data is missing or incomplete for race). They accounted for 31.3 percent of overall cases.

Yet, at the same time, the group most closely watched is the Latino population, which has been climbing steadily over the last three weeks. They have decreased to 20 percent of all cases after jumping to 24 percent last week. Still, it is much higher than initially in Boston.

White residents account for 20.5 percent of all cases, but 44 percent of all deaths.

•As of May 26, there were 12,521 confirmed cases, with 6,019 recovered and out of isolation. That's a higher recovery rate – nearly 50 percent – than many communities surrounding Boston.



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The South Boston High (Excel) JROTC members stand aside the ceremonial wreath after placing it at the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument – which was desecrated the day before.



Monument President Tony Molina said he was very upset by what had happened, but praised volunteers and the City for helping restore the damage in time for Memorial Day.

VETERANS MONUMENT (from pg. 1)

Day – which had already been restrained by COVID-19 restrictions on their usual exercises at the Monument.

“It’s very disrespectful for someone to do this, especially on the day before Memorial Day,” he said. “Maybe they don’t like that the Puerto Ricans have a monument...I hope whoever did this looks in the mirror and feels ashamed for all the pain this has caused. It’s crazy and I’m so upset. We’re Puerto Ricans and we’re hard-headed. So we aren’t going to be kept down.”

The desecrated Monument was discovered on Sunday, with a large granite bollard at the entrance knocked over, and other things damaged and one of the flags ripped down and desecrated.

City Councilor Ed Flynn called the act “repugnant,” but was key in showing up on Sunday with the City workers to help get the Monument in line for Monday’s abbreviated exercises in honor of



An impassioned, City Veterans Commissioner Roberto Santiago said he was very disgusted by the desecration of the Monument, and said he took it very personally.



Police Commissioner William Gross said there is an investigation into the incident, and he also added that on Sunday the federal government finally recognized the Puerto Rican veterans from World War II.

Memorial Day. “It’s very disappointing, but I also saw the wonderful spirit of the South End community and the Puerto Rican veterans community come together to fix this so we could properly remember and think about the men and women that served unselfishly in service to their country,” he said on Monday. “I’m so proud to represent the Puerto Rican community and the South End and to be part of this great community.”

Commissioner Willie Gross said there is an investigation into the matter, and while on hand to honor the fallen soldiers on Memorial Day – as he has always attended the Monument exercises – he said he hopes they do catch those who did this. He also added he hopes that once they do catch them, they aren’t let free – a common refrain from him over the last weeks as police have struggled with the justice system releasing arrestees.

Gross said the D-4 detectives

are working the case, and they are getting help from headquarters as well. He said they are looking charges of desecrating a monument and also of Civil Rights Violations.

“This is under investigation,” he said. “It’s disheartening for this to happen on Memorial Day weekend...Everybody helped build this country and everyone helped fight to make this the best country in the world. Tony Molina was right when he said they can push us down, but we will get up. Whoever did this will be found.”

He asked the public for help if they noticed anything on Saturday night into Sunday morning, and he said anyone with information can call the anonymous tip line at 1-800-494-TIPS. Or they can report it directly to the detectives at the D-4 Station on Harrison Avenue.

At the Memorial Day exercis-



State Rep. John Santiago and Congressman Joe Kennedy III place a memorial basket at the Monument.



Councilor Ed Flynn and State Rep. Jon Santiago work with a South Boston High JROTC student to lower the flag to half-staff.



Vanessa Calderon Rosado spoke about her connection to the Monument, particularly the 65th Regiment, where her father served in the Korean War.

es on Monday, there was a passion in the crowd that arose from the injustice of the previous day, and it echoed through the words of Molina, Flynn, State Rep. Jon Santiago, Congressman Joe Kennedy III, and IBA Director Vanessa Calderon-Rosado.

Santiago said it proves that more education is needed about the plight of veterans from all

walks of life.

“There’s still a lot of work to be done in educating people about the sacrifice these soldiers made,” he said. “This is sacred ground. It is either someone who doesn’t know what it means to serve and sacrifice, or they have a condition and don’t understand fully what they did.”

Baker-Polito Administration holds virtual Memorial Day ceremony

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker, along with Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and several other elected officials, held a virtual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday to honor those who have served the country and those who have lost their lives.

Baker said in the pre-taped ceremony that he has participated in many Memorial Day ceremonies across the Commonwealth over the years, but “the one thing I’ve always really appreciated about all of those ceremonies is the chance that it gives me to look in the eye the men and women who serve, the families of those who serve, and thank them for their com-

mitment and their sacrifice to this great country of ours.”

He added that, “but this year because of COVID-19, we’re all doing this virtually. But that doesn’t mean the sentiments change along the way.”

He thanked those who have serve on behalf of the United States, and said that next year, he “hopes and expects” that people can reunite and hug each other “both figuratively and literally.”

Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives Bob DeLeo said that “...at this time when we’re going through a very difficult time in our history because of the COVID-19 virus, that we also take time to make sure that we remember those who

have fought diligently, fought very hard, the service men and women of our great country.”

The video also showed clips from socially distanced ceremonies at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke, the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea, the Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon, Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Agawam, as well as musical interludes and a “Tribute to the Fallen” by the Massachusetts National Guard.

“In addition the virtual Memorial Day Ceremony, through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Department of Veterans’ Services, building managers and Veterans Service Officers across the Commonwealth,

buildings, bridges, flags, and parks throughout the Commonwealth were illuminated in gold to honor Gold Star Families last night on Sunday, May 24,” according to the state.

On the Boston Common, where around 37,000 flags are usually placed to honor Massachusetts service members who died while serving the country, 1,000 flags were planted six feet apart this year instead.

The effort, led by the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund (MMHF) and Project 351, took place after midnight on May 25.

“After midnight today, a small group led by our staff & board members along with ambassadors from @TeamProject351 gathered

on Boston Common to create a limited garden of about 1,000 flags to join those hanging in windows, on porches, front lawns & online at #HeroesFlagGarden,” MMHF tweeted on Monday. “We’re so thankful to all who helped make this happen, including the City of Boston and our sponsors. Please visit carefully today, observe the social distance like the flags are doing. Honor and remember.”

Mayor Marty Walsh tweeted on Monday, “Thank you @MaMil-Heroes for helping us honor those who gave their lives in service of our country. Although this year’s Flag Garden may look different, the spirit of this moving commemoration will remain.”

WSANA hears from affordable housing developer on East Springfield

By Seth Daniel

The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) held its second online community meeting on Tuesday night, and heard from an affordable housing developer who has won the right to develop a five-unit building on East Springfield – a building that is owned by the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) and has been dilapidated for 10 or more years.

BHA Director Kate Bennett announced last month that MPZ Development had won the bid on the property at 34 E. Springfield over the South End’s New Boston Ventures. On Tuesday, Matheiu Zahler of MPZ appeared at the online meeting to talk about his plans for the property.

For the most part, neighbors are very excited the developer has taken on the project as the vacant property has been an eyesore and trouble spot for many years. Boston Housing was never able to renovate it, and attempts to find a developer in the past fell flat. This time, however, they had two good bids.

Zahler said he worked previously for the affordable housing developer Trinity Financial, which does everything from public housing to market rate condos. Two years ago he formed his own business and has specialized in affordable projects.

“I think East Springfield is a beautiful street and I think 34 East Springfield was a beautiful building at one time,” he said. “I see potential there and I saw in the RFP they wanted to keep it affordable. That’s what I do. So I decided

to put in a bid to re-develop that building.”

Zahler said he plans to develop five, one-bedroom units that will be affordable for 80 percent of the Average Median Income (AMI) – which is essentially workforce housing levels. It will be a full gut renovation and he will use state and federal tax credits in part to finance the project.

“I am committed to this project and look forward to working on it,” he said. “We’ll get into the due diligence in the next couple of weeks. We have NarrowGate working with us. Ultimately, it will be my building and I’ll be a good resource for the community – hopefully a good neighbor.”

He did say he plans to self-manage the building, and some neighbors were concerned about that as Zahler lives in Milton and not close by.

“It’s important to have someone very local because things happen fast here,” said Fernando Requena. “I’m a little skeptical of that.”

Zahler said he doesn’t yet own the building, and that this will be a difficult project to complete. He said he would like to return to the next month’s meeting to talk about details of the project as they come forward.

•POLICE PRESENCE APPRECIATED

After some comments by some neighbors at last month’s WSANA meeting regarding police presence in the neighborhoods, a group of neighbors fired back saying they are very pleased with the presence of the officers in the alleys.

That came as D-4 Capt. Ste-

ven Sweeney was on the meeting and talking safety with the neighbors – particularly in the wake of last month’s comments and the police-involved shootout on Massachusetts Avenue two weekends ago.

Vice President Desi Murphy said he has taken some data on the presence and noted that there were at least six cars in the alley each day, and as many as 15 a day.

“We are definitely noticing D-4’s presence in WSANA,” he said.

Sweeney said he understood that some neighbors are frustrated to see that public hygiene and some drug activity might be happening when police happen not to be there, but he said they spend a great deal of resources in Worcester Square.

“I know it can be disheartening for the neighbors, but we spend a lot of police resources in Worcester Square,” he said.

Sweeney has been telling many neighborhood groups about the loop patrols he has instituted at the D-4 station. He told WSANA as well, noting that when officers return from a call in the Back Bay or Fenway, he asks them to take a loop through the alleys in

WSANA, then loop around Blackstone and Franklin Squares, and then finally arrive at the Harrison Avenue station.

He said he has also uncovered some issues at some addresses on Mass Avenue while driving the beat – especially at 698 Mass Avenue where he and Sgt. Paul DeLeo uncovered a very unsanitary rooming house that isn’t following any social distancing restrictions and letting people congregate.

Like Commissioner Willie Gross often says lately, Sweeney also said – in that they are frustrated with the courts and the inability to hold prisoners.

“The word on the street is if you say you have COVID you can’t get arrested,” he said. “I don’t want that to be a get out of jail free card. We pick our spots. We want to keep the station well...Unfortunately when we do arrest them a lot end up right back out. Sometimes my officers are still doing the paperwork and the person is back on Mass Ave. That’s frustrating. But that’s not a police issue.”

•HYGIENE AND BATHROOM USE

Steve Fox of Rutland Square was at the online meeting and told

WSANA neighbors the Mass/Cass 2.0 Task Force has been working with the City to create an enhanced protocol for responding to issues where someone has urinated or defecated on private property.

“The one thing we wanted to acknowledge was all the public and private bathrooms previously available to the folks on the streets of the South End were closed,” he said. “We needed to recognize something fundamental has changed in the ability of people to find a place to use.”

That came during a discussion where neighbors felt that needles and trash were not quite as serious as they usually are due to the pandemic. However, public bathroom use on private property has gone up all over the South End.

Fox said they have talked with the City to form a sort of clean up crew like the Graffiti Busters – who clean up graffiti on private property if called. Fox said neighbors should call 3-1-1 to report such things and there is to be a new protocol and response for such problems.

“No hygiene issue in the South End should be unresolved,” Fox said.

DID YOU KNOW?

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As city reopens, NABB considers ways businesses on Newbury and Boylston Streets could be affected

By Lauren Bennett

As businesses begin to reopen across the city for remote fulfillment and curbside pickup, organizations like the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) have begun to think about how other factors of reopening might affect these businesses, particularly on Newbury and Boylston Streets.

“We at NABB don’t know what’s going to happen,” said NABB Chairman Martyn Roetter. Some people have questions about what might happen to some of the stores that have shut, and Roetter said that trying to predict what might happen is a “futile exercise.”

He said that a better way to think is “about what we might like to happen. How can we get it to be what the new normal is? We cannot go back to exactly the way things were.”

Roetter said that “interrelated issues” such as how many people will be coming into urban areas to work in offices and other spaces, particularly those who have successfully been able to work from home, will have an impact on how many people will visit businesses on streets like Newbury St.

“Will they come back into offices as frequently as they did before? Will they stay at home? Will hours and days be staggered?” Roetter said. “If the number of people commuting in and out on a daily basis changes, it will have an impact on restaurants and retail outlets in the downtown area.”

He also said that the number of people coming in and out of the city could have an effect on traffic and the capacity of public transit. “If people are understandably nervous about getting onto public transport, will there be more vehicles coming into town than

before?”

Mayor Walsh has said over the past couple of weeks that he is looking into extending sidewalks in certain areas of the city so restaurants would have more room to socially distance patrons.

“It’s tricky on Newbury St.,” Roetter said. He said that NABB does not have “any definitive position” on this, but it’s “something we’re aware of.”

Something else NABB has been thinking about are the buildings on Newbury St. and what will happen should a retail store or restaurant go out of business due to the pandemic.

“What do you do with the space?” Roetter said. “It’s possible to convert it into residential.” He said that because Newbury St. is zoned for both retail and residential, this “might be a good idea to alleviate some of the housing shortage.”

He stressed that NABB is “not intending to predict” how anything will turn out in the neighborhood or across the city, but the organization has “just become increasingly aware of the difficult nature [of the situation] and decisions we’re going to have to make as we move out of the COVID-19 crisis.”

He said that NABB is working on thinking through what they might like to see happen and “see what steps we might be able to think of to help us avoid continuation of the worst possible situation.”

He said that NABB has been working with the business community on ways the organization can help support them. “We realize that if the business community in the Back Bay is in trouble, that does not bode well for residents,” Roetter said. He said NABB is thinking of ways they could possibly stimulate local buying in the community to help support some of the businesses that might have trouble getting back on their feet.

“Up to now, we’ve been pointing out which businesses and restaurants are open for curbside pickup,” Roetter added.

Roetter said that NABB continues to be a part of the conversation by meeting virtually as an organization, as well as participating in City and other community meetings that affect the Back Bay by attending meetings and submitting comments on project proposals.

SOLITUDE IN THE CITY



A man crosses Marlborough Street in the Back Bay during what would be rush hour last Friday afternoon. Instead of cars backed up at the light and turning too close to the pedestrians, there simply are none. At times when things used to be busy, frequently busy neighborhoods like the Back Bay feel empty and a bit desolate.

Boston ranks above New York, Chicago in this year’s ParkScore rankings

By Lauren Bennett

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) recently released its annual ParkScore rankings, which it says is “the most comprehensive evaluation of park access and quality in the 100 largest U.S. cities.”

Boston ranked #9 on the list,

beating out New York City and Chicago, and has moved up from #13 in 2019.

According to TPL researcher Charlie McCabe, Boston’s higher ranking can be attributed to the “increased spending [in parks] by the city, as well as spending by parks non-profits, including the

Emerald Necklace Conservancy.”

According to TPL’s website, Boston’s ParkScore was calculated using four categories that TPL said are “characteristics of an effective park system:” access, acreage, investment, and amenities. Boston received a score of 100 out of 100 for access, as 100 percent of Boston residents live within a 10 minute walk of a park. TPL reported that the national average is 55 percent.

Boston has 930 parks across the city, and received a score of 49 out of 100 for acreage, 92 out of 100 for investment, and 65 out of 100 for amenities like basketball hoops, dog parks, playgrounds, and splashpads.

The City of Boston has made recent investments to improve parks all over the city, including Peters and Ramsay Parks in the South End, the Westland Avenue Gateway in the Back Bay Fens, and the \$28 million Boston Common Master Plan project, among many others.

“The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is thrilled to see Boston’s well-deserved rise in the Trust for Public Land’s ParkScore rankings. As stewards of 1,100 acres of Boston’s parkland—almost half of its total acreage—we look forward to working with our partners at the City to push our ranking even



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY

The Back Bay Fens, looking towards the Boston skyline.

(PARKSCORE, Pg. 10)

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Baker provides updates on state's response to COVID-19

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Baker held a press conference on Tuesday where he provided some updates on the state's response to COVID-19.

He said that as of Monday, more than 540,000 tests have been performed in Massachusetts, and the state "remains a top 5 player" per capita in the country for testing. He said that they are looking to bring more mobile and site based vendors to the state to

increase testing even further. As of May 26, Massachusetts had seen 93,693 total cases of COVID-19, and 6,473 people had died.

With Phase One of the Commonwealth's reopening plan now underway, Baker said that residents across the state "have a responsibility" to continue doing things like socially distance, wear face masks, wash hands often, and disinfect surfaces.

"The progress that we've made is only made possible by every-

one's willingness to do their part," he said. Right now, Baker said that the public health numbers are trending in the right direction, but he has said at previous press conferences that if numbers begin to rise again, the state could go back a phase and re-implement restrictions that have been lifted.

Baker said on Tuesday that after having "daily conversations with the healthcare community," many of the field hospitals that have been erected across the state have

"begun to close."

One such hospital is the 1,000 bed Boston Hope medical center, which was set up in the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston. Over the past several weeks, more than 700 COVID-19 patients have been treated on the hospital side, and has served many people on the homeless side as well.

Baker announced that as of Tuesday, in conjunction with Mayor Marty Walsh and the City of Boston, Boston Hope is suspending acceptance of new patients. The facility will continue to care for the patients who are there right now until they are discharged, and the beds will remain throughout the summer "should we need it," Baker said.

Baker also talked about food security in the Commonwealth. Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a \$56 million program to "combat urgent food insecurity for some Massachusetts families and individuals as a result of COVID-19," according to the state. Many people across the state have found themselves struggling for the first time with food insecurity, while others have been dealing with it for a very long time and COVID-19 has only exacerbated the situation.

The Food Security Task Force was created "in response to increased demands for food assistance," the state said, and this funding was "consistent with the findings" of the task force. The task force is made up of "a broad group of public and private members charged with ensuring food insecurity and food supply needs are addressed during the COVID-19 public health emergency," according to the state.

This "funding will jumpstart some of the Task Force's new recommendations to address urgent needs and food supply chain issues," Baker said on Tuesday. "Increasing food security is essential to protecting the health of the people of Massachusetts."

The program includes \$36 million for a food security infrastructure grant program, as well as \$5 million to increase the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), which includes access to local produce and will increase places that accept SNAP and HIP benefits.

MBTA UPDATES

Governor Baker on Tuesday held a press conference from Maverick Station in East Boston, where work on the Blue Line is being done in an accelerated fashion.

From May 18 to May 31, shuttle buses will replace Blue Line service from Airport to Bowdoin where 2200 feet of track is being replaced, removing a speed restriction between Maverick and Aquarium stations. Flood resilience will also be improved in the

tunnel between the two stations.

"By diverting this part of the Blue Line for two weeks," Baker said, the work will be completed more than two months early.

Baker, along with State Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack and MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak, provided updates and information on the MBTA as the state moves forward with its reopening process.

"The T has continued to run every single day throughout COVID-19," Baker said. "Providing public transportation is an essential service." He thanked all of the MBTA workers for their continued dedication to getting other essential workers where they needed to go throughout the pandemic.

Pollack said that during Fiscal Year 2019, for the first time ever, the MBTA invested more than \$1 billion in capital projects—"the most in a single year," she said.

"The MBTA expects to exceed \$14 billion this fiscal year despite COVID," she said. She said that closing parts of the system to accelerate work is something that had already been planned by the MBTA and will continue this summer as planned on the Green Line.

"Life as we know it has changed in many ways," Pollack said. "We're expecting to see changes in how people travel and how people work."

She said that "we hope and expect that telecommuting will continue," and having many employees continue to work from home "can help the MBTA from becoming undesirably crowded."

If employers also implement staggered start times for their employees, it will also help put less pressure on the highway system as well as the growing demand on the MBTA.

MBTA passengers are required to cover their faces when riding, and are encouraged to practice social distancing.

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak said that right now, ridership on the MBTA is a "fraction what we see" during a typical May day, "but increasingly, riders will come back," he said.

He said that the MBTA is "dedicated to providing essential service that tracks" with the different phases of the Governor's reopening plan. The "Ride Safer" campaign will also continue to be promoted throughout, which includes reminding people that face coverings are required, the importance of social distancing, and information about the increased cleaning that is happening system wide on vehicles and in stations.

Right now in Phase One, the MBTA is running on reduced service, and as other phases come, service will be increased, Poftak said.

WALSH UPDATES (from pg. 1)

said that Boston Hope is currently serving 36 patients, and the facility will remain open until the last patient is discharged. The 1,000 bed facility was set up in a matter of days and was up and running to serve patients beginning on April 10.

"Boston Hope has been the most significant event ever held at the convention center," Walsh said. "It truly is a great Boston story and will be told for years to come."

Walsh said the hope is to not have to open Boston Hope again. "We're not on the other side of the virus yet," he said. "I think it's incumbent upon all of us now to do the distancing and the hand washing so we don't have to open Boston Hope again. It's within our ability to stop that second surge."

He said that although "we're moving in the right direction," he said he saw some "concerning behavior" over the Memorial Day weekend. Walsh warned residents that there is a two week lag between infection and positive test results. It's still important to keep washing your hands, wearing a face covering, as well as physically distance from others, he said.

"It's important to keep educating ourselves and how the science applies to reopening," Walsh said. He said that people have to "understand the risks and minimize them as much as possible," especially as offices are set to reopen on June 1. Factors like air flow and ventilation, as well as how many people are in a space and how much time is spent in a space are all important ones to consider.

"I certainly understand that none of this is easy," he said, but it's "certainly not a time to let up."

Walsh also talked about supporting local businesses, and said that the City is continuing to host workshops and deliver resources to small businesses across Boston. "In the City of Boston, we'll continue to provide the facts in multiple languages and on multiple platforms," Walsh said, as well as continue to make testing available

where it is needed.

The City has also launched a webpage to support local businesses and provide them resources.

So far the City of Boston has \$7.5 million in the Small Business Relief Fund, and \$4 million has already been distributed to 1100 small businesses, 95 percent of them with 15 or fewer employees.

\$6 MILLION REOPEN BOSTON FUND

Walsh announced on Tuesday the creation of a \$6 million Reopen Boston Fund, which is a debt-free grant program to help small businesses put safety measures in place as they begin to reopen. Funds from this grant could be used to purchase things like personal protective equipment, install safety partitions, and manage outdoor spaces approved for business use.

Walsh said that the funds will be released in three rounds that correspond to the state's reopening phases. Applications for Phase One will open Thursday, May 28 at 5pm and information sheets will be available in multiple languages. For more information, visit boston.gov/reopen-fund.

"We know how much small businesses mean to our community," Walsh said. He added that the City is also aiming to create more opportunities for local minority and women contractors to install safety materials for businesses.

He also reminded businesses that just because they are allowed to reopen doesn't mean they have to. He said they will continue to receive resources and guidance from the City, even if they choose to keep their doors shut for now. He said there are also options for employees if they feel they are being pressured into unsafe situations.

OTHER UPDATES

Walsh was asked on Tuesday about a range of different subjects from public pools to summer camps to pro sports coming back to the City.

He said that if pro sports teams do come back soon, "it will be dif-

ferent than what we're used to," with players most likely playing in empty stadiums. He said he would keep the public updated with any news on that front.

When asked about restaurants asking for the ability to serve cocktails with their takeout meals, Walsh said that he "would allow restaurants to sell cocktails to go," but he understands that it would require changes to the legislation to do so.

He said that he's in "regular conversation with the state" about things like public pools, which, according to the state's reopening plan, would be allowed to open in Phase Two. He said he's "looking forward to learning" more specifics about what opening pools would entail, as details have yet to be released about guidelines for public pools.

For summer jobs in Boston, Walsh said that the City is "actively working for the best ways to bring the most opportunities to our young people." He said he does "intend on having summer jobs here in the City," but he is unclear on the specifics of what they would be or how they would work.

Walsh said that the hope is to reopen colleges and universities this coming fall, but it's "still a little too early" to provide any specifics on what that might look like. He said that specifics on things like housing and transportation accommodations still have to be discussed further.

"I think there's always a safe way to do things," he said. He said he is on "several calls a week" with the bigger universities as well as the commuter schools. Walsh said that it's hard to tell where the City will be with COVID-19 cases in the fall, so there are a lot of questions that have not yet been answered. Some schools, like Boston University, have announced testing protocol that they would use.

"The intention is to open in the fall; I hope we can do that," he said.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The doorway in the last clue is at 15 Union Park. In his book, "The City Observed: Boston," architecture critic Donlyn Lyndon writes of Union Park Square, "It's one of the most beautiful open spaces in Boston, an elliptical room made by the continuous wall of town-house façades surrounding it."

The next clue will be found In the Back Bay.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Dacokaso LLC	New Clarendn St Towers	263 Clarendon St	\$4,129,475
Fogle, Martin	Morris, Amy	160 Commonwealth Ave #518	\$1,725,000
Gibson, Lauren E	34-1 Fairfield Street	34 Fairfield St #1	\$750,000
Fitzgerald, Alison C	Scott A Berkey RET	6 Gloucester St #2	\$985,000
Bartholomew, Samantha	Nader, Anthony M	411 Marlborough St #2	\$1,150,000
BEACON HILL			
Ferry, Judith	Wong, Michael C	74 Phillips St #4	\$650,000
Schneider, Martin B	Hintljan, Julie A	6 Whittier Pl #12P	\$520,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Hinkle, Timothy	Lesaffre, Luke	9 Columbus Sq #1	\$2,020,000
Mcarthur, Matthew	106 Mt Pleasant Ave LLC	106 Mount Pleasant Ave #1	\$590,000
Wagner, Samantha	Huang, Dong	69 E Berkeley St #5	\$520,000
Hu, Stephanie	55 E Springfield LLC	55 E Springfield St #5	\$650,000
Brady, Lauren	477 Harrison Avenue LLC	477 Harrison Ave #4C	\$1,475,000
Marom, Jonathan T	Shah, Raksha	65 Rutland St #3	\$1,538,000
Alves, Jonathan W	Madikians, Rouben	15 Saint George St #3	\$678,700
Laconia Condo 413 RT	Paul, Stephen R	1180-1200 Washington St #413	\$1,109,000
Richardson, Diana L	Schwartz, Barry	4 Worcester Sq #1	\$1,500,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Hsiao, Joseph A	Wu, Jie	109-119 Beach St #1F	\$698,000

PARKSCORE (from pg. 8)

higher," the Emerald Necklace Conservancy said in a statement.

"What's really been central [to the higher ranking] is increased spending on parks by the City of Boston and parks nonprofits," said Evan Bradley, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. He said that organizations like the Conservancy account for 19 percent of the total spending on the City's parks.

Bradley said that the Emerald Necklace Conservancy has been contributing more money to "important measures" like tree pruning over the past year. So far, 1700 out of 8000 trees in the inventory have been pruned. "Even if they're not conventionally attractive [improvements], these investments are central to maintaining a healthy park system," he said. "As a consequence it allows for a pretty impressive rise in the ParkScore ranking."

Bradley said that the Emerald Necklace Conservancy would like to thank its public partners for making investments in the park system. "Aside from that, we want to be clear that the work of nonprofits like the Emerald necklace Conservancy is significant," he said. He said that one out of every five dollars comes from a nonprofit organization.

Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy said, "We applaud the City of Boston's investment in the parks, led by Mayor Walsh, Chief Cook and Commissioner Woods, and look forward to continued strong investment in our parks – used now more than ever in these challenging times. Non-profit organizations like the Conservancy contribute 19% of total spending on Boston's parks. We are proud to work together with our public partners at the City of Boston, Town of Brookline and with the Commonwealth in the care and keeping on the Emerald Necklace,

Boston's largest park system, and to have our efforts recognized on a national level. This recognition is a direct result of your time, effort, thought and resources -- thank you!"

Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods said, "Boston's open spaces have always been a priority for our neighborhoods. I'm proud that we are a leader in access to parks, with 100 percent of residents living within 10 minutes of a park, allowing Bostonians the opportunity to easily enjoy our public open spaces. During this time, access to parks is more important than ever."



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BLC approves restoration of McKim Building fountain

By Lauren Bennett

After years of chlorine degradation, the McKim Building Courtyard Fountain at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square will be renovated.

The proposal for the project came before the Boston Landmarks Commission virtually on May 26, where architect Lara Pfadt explained the work that would be done.

"The fountain is well loved by both the library and the City and is in need of repair," she said. She went through some of the history of the fountain, explaining that at one point the statue was removed

and then returned, and over time the water feature in the center of the fountain has changed.

"The majority of the work is the replacement of the tile," Pfadt said, which has been damaged by the chlorination of the water in the fountain. This is not the original tile; it was replaced in 1999 when "lots of restoration" was done to the fountain. She said that the stone surround is original, but may have had pieces replaced during this previous restoration.

The proposed replacement tile is a white tile in a random mosaic pattern, to replicate the one that is being taken out. Pfadt said she does not know what the

original tile looked like, as all the photos from the fountain's early days show the fountain filled with water, making it difficult to see the detail of the tile.

"There is a fountain ring and a statue in the center," Pfadt said. "Our proposal is to enclose that fountain ring and lights in a raised platform," and she said that the fountain piping itself sits inside of that. The water would arc out similar to how it did in the 1890s, as opposed to shooting straight up as it does now.

Lights that surround the ring statue light the water as it sprays out, and four lights along the very edge of the fountain light the stat-

ue's face only.

"Our goal is to recreate the effect they have now," she said.

Since the chlorine in the water has caused so many issues with the tile, but the water is required to meet certain sanitation standards as a public fountain, Pfadt said they would be lowering the amount of chlorine in the water and installing a UV system to kill any germs.

The height of the pool will not be changed and the slope will be maintained, but the water will be lowered an inch down.

"Currently the water hits right at the cap wall and the side joint—that's the weak point," Pfadt said.

She said that the fountain engineers she has been working with recommended that the water level be "just below that."

Pfadt said that the library will take the statue away before construction starts, and the construction team will move the granite statue base to be stored within the courtyard.

She said that right now, the plan is to begin construction in October and end next April.

The Boston Landmarks Commission voted to approve this proposal as presented with the proviso that Landmarks staff view and approve the final tile choice and specs for the grout on site.

Mayor Walsh announces meal distribution milestones

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced May 21 various City of Boston milestones in meal distribution, including more than one million free meals served to youth across 68 sites since the beginning of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Since expanding the number of meal sites to also serve adults last month, the City has already distributed over 60,000 meals to adults as well. Residents can visit boston.gov/covid19food or call 311 to find food resources, including meal sites for youth and adults, food pantries, and more.

"Before this crisis hit, nutrition for young people was already a priority, but with COVID-19 we had to stand up a citywide food system that reaches every family and community in need, regardless of their

school and, ultimately, regardless of their age as well," said Mayor Walsh. "The partnerships that have been forged and our collective response to the needs that exist has grown our sense of what's possible, when we come together as a city."

The Boston Resiliency Fund (BRF) has granted over \$9 million to organizations devoted to helping Bostonians with access to food and other basic needs. The BRF's \$2 million of contributions to the Greater Boston Food Bank have supported over 478,000 pounds of food distribution, with a portion of that funding helping to establish a City program that has delivered over 75,000 pounds of food to public housing and senior households. Another BRF grantee,

Fresh Truck, has delivered almost 22,000 fresh produce boxes.

FOOD SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

The City of Boston has provided over a million free breakfast and lunch meals to all Boston children across 68 sites since the closing of the Boston Public Schools (BPS). This distribution network represents a partnership between BPS, Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF), Boston Housing Authority (BHA), YMCA, and other community locations.

Families with special education students who receive door-to-door transportation, can email mealdelivery@bostonpublicschools.org to request to have their meals delivered.

FOOD SUPPORT FOR OLDER ADULTS & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Approximately half of the requests to the City of Boston for food assistance are from older adults who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. The City has worked to ensure food delivery and home-delivered meals are options to reduce exposure to the virus. Boston's elder nutrition program has had a 40 percent increase in meal deliveries since the beginning of the public health emergency, providing Meals on Wheels and grab-and-go lunches to older adults. This expansion has been supported, in part, by the Boston Resiliency fund grants to Ethos and the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center. There have also been over 5,600 door-to-door grocery deliveries to Boston's most vulnerable populations.

In addition to finding special shopping hours at grocery stores, older residents can find a food distribution location near them here and are encouraged to call 311 or the Age Strong Commission at (617) 635-4366 for more info.

FOOD SUPPORT FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

Residents can visit boston.gov/covid19foodmap to find food resources, including youth meal sites, food pantries, and more. For information on accessing SNAP, P-EBT and WIC benefits and food pantries information, residents are asked to connect with Project Bread at 1 (800) 645-8333. If someone cannot access food due to mobility, illness, or quarantine, they are encouraged to connect with the Mayor's Office of Food Access at (617) 635-3717 or food@boston.gov.

For the Record

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: *Due to public health concerns, the hearings that normally would be held on a week have been postponed or canceled due to the guidance of Mayor Martin Walsh and the order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.*

From the May 27 License Board Hearing, 10 a.m., Zoom meeting (HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/94166876250?PWD=RU9HUBHV-JNJUZRPCMM4UKS2UVLPUT09):

- Liquid Art Boston LLC; D/B/A: LIQUID ART HOUSE, 100 ARLINGTON St., Back Bay. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license from the above - To: Nusret Boston, LLC d/b/a Nusret Steakhouse (at the same location). Ali Volkan Avci, Manager. 12:30 a.m. Closing Hour.

From the May 28, Ways & Means Budget Working Session, Via Zoom online:

- 10 a.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budgets for the Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) and Inspectional Services (ISD). This hearing will also cover the PEG Access fund.

- 2 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budget for the Boston Plan-

ning & Development Agency (BPDA).

- 6 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is to hear public testimony on any aspect of the FY21 budget.

From the June 2 South End Landmarks Commission hearing, 5:30 p.m., Zoom meeting (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87373806804):

DESIGN REVIEW

- 591 Tremont St. Proposed Work: At the garden level entrance under the stoop, install a door and tile at the landing; repaint masonry stoop and façade apron.

- 190 West Brookline St. Proposed Work: At the roof, construct a roof deck with head house.

- 103 Warren Ave. Proposed Work: At the roof, construct a roof deck with hatch access; at the front façade, remove iron grilles.

- 40 Gray St. Proposed Work: At the roof, construct a roof deck with hatch access and skylight.

- 181 Warren Ave. Proposed Work: At the roof, construct a roof deck with head house/hatch access.

- 34 Clarendon St. *Continued from 3/03/2020 Public Hearing.* Proposed Work: At the front façade and rear façade parlor through mansard levels, replace six-over-six, double-hung wood windows in kind.

From the June 2 Josiah Quincy Upper School Building Committee, 5:30 p.m., Webex meeting (HTTPS://CITYOFBOSTON.WEBEX.COM/CITYOFBOSTON/ONSTAGE/G.PHP?MTID=E9DB0FB8A-D11A18E80CEA139AE0E115FC):

- The Public Facilities Department and Boston Public Schools will be presenting the new building for the Josiah Quincy Upper School on June 2 at 5:30 p.m.

From the June 4 Back Bay Tree Removal Hearing, 10:30 a.m., Zoom Meeting:

- The request is for the removal of one honey locust tree measuring 14 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) due to construction at 171 Dartmouth St.

The hearing will be held by the City of Boston's Tree Warden (or designee). Written comments or questions may be submitted to parks@boston.gov prior to the hearing.

The following features are STILL CLOSED in all City of Boston parks:

- Playground structures and equipment (slides, swings, climbing structures)

- Fitness equipment
- Courts: basketball, street hockey, and handball

- Organized, group sports activities on fields: baseball, softball, football, rugby, cricket, and soccer

- Please only use parks when you have the

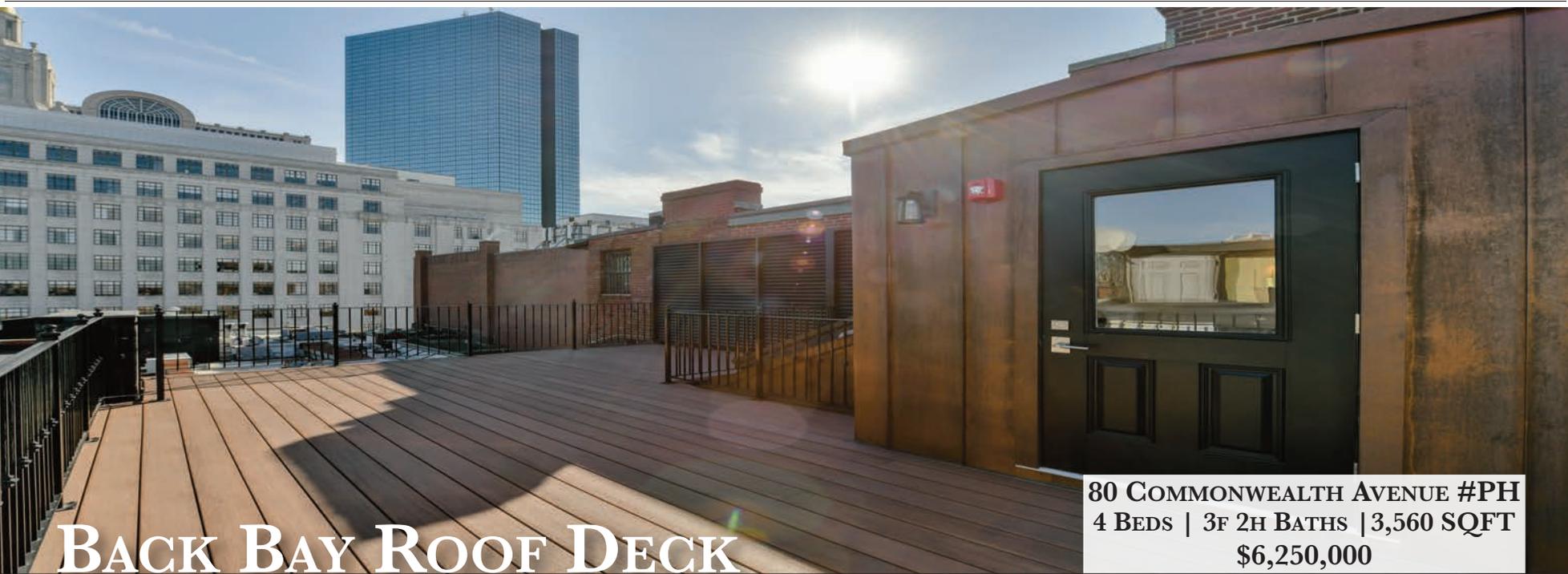
ability to remain six feet away from others. If you find a park to be crowded, choose a less busy time or find another park.

REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

- Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.



BACK BAY ROOF DECK

80 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #PH
4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 3,560 SQFT
\$6,250,000



73 MOUNT VERNON STREET #1
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,082 SQFT
\$4,295,000



136 BEACON STREET #9
3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,210 SQFT
\$3,299,000



144 BEACON STREET #8
4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,970 SQFT
\$6,450,000



380 BEACON STREET #2
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,714 SQFT
\$5,500,000

